(Rs. in crores)

Year	Grants/Loan	IEBR	Total	Expenditure
2001-02	1113.81	711.90	1825.71	1629.27
2000-03	1238.39	686.06	1924.45	1766.93
2003-04	1131.19	671.27	1802.46	1663.77
TOTAL	3483.39	2069.23	5552.82	5059.97

(c) Prasar Bharati has been, for the last few years, facing financial burden on account of payment of Service Tax, Income Tax, Sales Tax, Octroi and other taxes. The Government has taken up the matter regarding relaxation from payment of various taxes with appropriate authorities. It is however, mentioned that the Prasar Bharati has recently been registered as a Charitable Institution under Section 12A read with Section 12 AA (1) (b) of Income Tax Act, 1961. With this registration, the income of Prasar Bharati for charitable purpose is exempted according to Section 11 to 13 of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Vacant posts of Judges in Patna High Court

f*195. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the vacant posts of judges in the Patna High Court as on the 30th June, 2004;

(b) the details of the steps being taken by Government to fill up the vacancies; and

(c) by when, all the vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Against an approved strength of 43 Judges, 22 Judges were in position in the Patna High Court as on 30.6.2004 leaving 21 vacancies to be filled up.

(b) Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6,1993 read with theirAdvisory Opinion of October 28,1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of judges of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has, however, been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the present and vacancies anticipated during the next six months.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The Chief Justice of Patna High Court has made recommendations for filling up of 7 vacancies.

Demand of North-Eastern Region

*196. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) what were the demands of the Chief Ministers from the North-East in the recent meeting with the Prime Minister held in Delhi; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Memoranda recently submitted by the Chief Ministers of Nroth East to the Prime Minister contain the following demands:

ASSAM

- Inadequate 11th Finance Commission Awards and need for special package to compensate Assam.

  A special financial package for additional flow of resources to the State.

- Changing the funding pattern of rural development scheme from 75:25 to 90:10 ratio.

- Additional bank finances for Self Help Groups.

  Release of balance amount of special compensation package as provided by the then PM to compensate the losses incurred by floods in the State of Assam.

- Special fund for protection of Majuli island.

- East-West Corridor Highway project to be extended to Jayrampur in Upper Assam.

- Special financial package to be worked out to provide assistance to the Tea Industry.